

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled).

17. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the tissue stabilizer comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, the shaft sized to allow insertion through an endoscopic cannula;
an adjustable ankle connected with the distal end of the shaft, the ankle comprising a housing and an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking balls and intermediate socket rings;
a manipulable foot connected with the ankle, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion by a shell disposed within the ankle housing, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, the first toe portion and second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula; and
a tension cable passing through the shaft wherein applying tension to the cable locks the ankle in position.

Claim 18 (canceled).

19. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 17, wherein each ball is independently rotateable against an adjacent ring to allow the neck to be adjusted.

20. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 17, wherein each ball and socket ring has a hollow core through which the tension cable extends.

21. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 20, wherein the balls and socket rings are arranged so that applying tension to the cable wedges the balls and socket rings together to lock the ankle in position by friction.

22. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 20, wherein the balls and socket rings are shaped so that applying tension to the cable causes at least one ball to apply a force to at least one socket ring at an angle of at least 60 degrees in relation to the cable.

Claim 23 (canceled).

24. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 23, wherein the shell is rotateable within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

25. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 23, wherein by applying tension to the cable the shell is locked within the housing so that the position of the foot is fixed in relation to the shaft.

26. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 25, wherein the tension cable comprises a locking ball disposed within the housing and wherein applying tension to the cable moves the housing so that the shell is locked within the housing.

27. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 17, further comprising a handle connected with the proximal end of the shaft, wherein rotation of the handle applies tension to the tension cable.

28. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 27, wherein the handle comprises ratchet pawls which lock the cable under tension.

29. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 27, wherein the handle comprises a release mechanism which unlocks the cable from tension.

30. (previously presented) A system for stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the system comprising:

a cannula;

a tissue stabilizer comprising

a shaft sized to allow insertion through the cannula, and

a manipulable foot connected with the shaft, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion, the first toe portion and second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the cannula; and

an adjustable ankle disposed between the foot and the shaft, wherein the ankle comprises an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking balls and intermediate socket rings; and

an irrigator comprising an adjustable dispenser terminating in a spout portion.

Claims 31-32 (canceled).

33. (previously presented) A system as in claim 30, wherein each ball is independently rotateable against an adjacent ring to allow the neck to be adjusted.

34. (previously presented) A system as in claim 30, wherein the first toe portion is rotateably joined with the second toe portion by a shell, and wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the shell is disposed.

35. (previously presented) A system as in claim 34, wherein the shell is rotateable within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

36. (previously presented) A system as in claim 30, wherein each toe portion comprises at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, and further comprising at least one suction tube connectable with the at least one suction port.

37. (original) A system as in claim 36, wherein the shaft comprises a suction lumen and the suction tube is insertable through the suction lumen.

38. (original) A system as in claim 36, wherein the suction tube comprises a suction tip which is connectable with the at least one suction port by insertion into a suction tube receptacle.

Claim 39 (canceled).

40. (previously presented) A system as in claim 30, wherein the shaft comprises an irrigation lumen and the irrigator is insertable through the irrigation lumen.

Claim 41 (canceled).

42. (previously presented) A system as in claim 30, wherein the dispenser comprises a plurality of beads coupled in a chain-like fashion.

43. (previously presented) A method of endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the method comprising:
inserting a tissue stabilizer through an endoscopic cannula wherein the tissue stabilizer comprises

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, and
a manipulable foot connected with the shaft wherein the foot
comprises at least two toe portions and an adjustable neck comprising a series of
interlocking balls and intermediate socket rings, and each toe portion comprising at least
one suction port;

adjusting the ankle to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft;
rotating the at least one ball against an adjacent ring;
positioning the manipulable foot against the target tissue; and
applying suction to the target tissue through the at least one suction port to
stabilize the target tissue.

44. (original) The method as in claim 43, wherein the foot comprises a
first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion, said method further
comprising rotating the first or second toe portions to a first arrangement wherein the foot
is insertable through the endoscopic cannula.

Claims 45-46 (canceled).

47. (previously presented) The method as in claim 45, wherein the first
toe portion is rotateably joined with the second toe portion by a shell and wherein the
ankle comprises a housing within which the shell is disposed, said method further
comprising rotating the shell within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in
relation to the shaft.

48. (original) The method as in claim 43, wherein the shaft has a
suction lumen therethrough, said method further comprising inserting a suction tube
through the suction lumen.

49. (original) The method as in claim 48, wherein the suction tube has a suction tip, said method further comprising connecting the suction tip with the at least one suction port.

50. (original) The method as in claim 43, wherein the shaft has an irrigation lumen therethrough, said method further comprising inserting an irrigator through the irrigation lumen.

51. (original) The method as in claim 50, wherein the irrigator comprises an adjustable dispenser terminating in a spout portion, said method further comprising adjusting the dispenser so that the spout portion is directed at the target tissue.

52. (original) The method as in claim 51, further comprising supplying a fluid to the irrigator so that the fluid exits the spout portion.

53. (previously presented) A method of stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the method comprising:

inserting a tissue stabilizer through a cannula wherein the tissue stabilizer comprises

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end,
an adjustable ankle connected with the distal end of the shaft,
a manipulable foot connected with the shaft wherein the foot comprises at least two toe portions, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port,
a tension cable passing through the shaft wherein applying tension to the cable locks the ankle in position, and

a handle comprising ratchet pawls and connected with the proximal end of the shaft;

applying tension to the cable by rotating the handle so as to lock the cable under tension using the ratchet pawls;

positioning the manipulable foot against the target tissue; and

applying suction to the target tissue through the at least one suction port to stabilize the target tissue.

Claim 54 (canceled).

55. (previously presented) A method as in claim 53, wherein the ankle comprises an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking elements, each element having a hollow core through which the tension cable extends, and wherein applying tension to the cable wedges the elements together to lock the ankle in position by friction.

56. (previously presented) A method as in claim 54, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion by a shell and wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the shell is disposed, and wherein applying tension to the cable locks the shell within the housing so that the position of the foot is fixed in relation to the shaft.

57. (previously presented) A method as in claim 56, wherein the tension cable comprises a locking ball disposed within the housing and wherein applying tension to the cable moves the housing so that the shell is locked within the housing.

Claims 58-59 (canceled).

60. (previously presented) A method as in claim 53, wherein the handle further comprises a release mechanism, said method further comprising actuating the release mechanism to unlock the cable from tension.

Claims 61-74 (canceled).

75. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the tissue stabilizer comprising:

a shaft sized to allow insertion through an endoscopic cannula; and
a manipulable foot connected with the shaft, wherein the foot comprises a
first toe portion and a second toe portion,

the first and second toe portions being rotatably coupled with the shaft by
a rotating joint assembly comprising a split ball joint assembly, the rotating joint
assembly providing that at least one of the first and second toe portions are rotatable with
respect to the shaft and providing that the first and second toe portions are rotatable with
respect to each other,

the first toe portion and second toe portion rotatable to at least a first toe
arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula, and wherein
the first toe arrangement is configured so that the first toe portion lies overlapping at least
a portion of the second toe portion.

76. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, wherein each toe
portion comprises at least one suction port configured so as to apply suction to the target
tissue during stabilization.

Claim 77 (canceled).

78. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, wherein
the rotating joint assembly comprises a first a pivotal joint and a second pivotal joint, the
first and second pivotal joints being coupled to the first and second toe portions
respectively.

Claim 79 (canceled).

80. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, wherein
the split ball joint assembly further comprises a first split ball portion coupled to the first
toe portion, and a second split ball portion coupled to the first toe portion, the first and

second split ball portions being disposed adjacent one another so as to define at least a portion of a generally spherical ball assembly.

81. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 80, wherein each toe portion comprises a ring mount.

82. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 81, wherein the first split ball portion is disposed adjacent the ring mount of the first toe, and the second split ball portion is disposed adjacent the ring mount of the second toe, the first and second split ball portions together encase the ring mounts of the first and second toe portions.

83. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, further comprising an adjustable ankle disposed between the foot and the shaft and coupling the foot to the shaft.

84. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, further comprising an irrigator.

85. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, further comprising at least one suction tube connectable with the at least one suction port.

86. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, further comprising a tension cable passing through the shaft wherein applying tension to the cable locks the foot in position with respect to the shaft and locks the toe portions in position with respect to one another.

87. (original) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 75, further comprising at least one cleat device mounted to a portion of the foot, the cleat device being configured to releasably hold a flexible elongate member for vessel occlusion.

Claims 88-102 (canceled).

103. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer for stabilizing a target tissue with a patient's body, the tissue stabilizer comprising:
a shaft sized to allow insertion through a cannula; and
a manipulatable foot connected with the shaft, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion, a second toe portion and an adjustable ankle rotatably coupling the first toe portion to the second toe portion with the shaft, wherein the first toe portion is rotateably joined with the second toe portion by a spherical split ball assembly, and the ankle comprises a housing within which the spherical split ball assembly is disposed.

104. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, wherein the spherical split ball assembly allows the first and the second toe portions to rotate with respect to the shaft and with respect to each other.

105. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, wherein each toe portion comprises a ring mount.

106. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 105, wherein the spherical split ball assembly comprises a top ball shell and a bottom ball shell which together encase the ring mounts of the first and second toe portions.

107. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, wherein the first toe portion and second toe portion are rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the cannula, and the spherical split ball assembly comprises a torsion spring to rotate the first toe portion and second toe portion to a second arrangement wherein the first toe portion and second toe portion are at least 8 mm apart.

108. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, wherein the foot is moveable in six degrees of freedom relative to the shaft by adjusting the ankle.

109. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, wherein the ankle comprises a series of interlocking balls and intermediate socket rings, and each ball is independently rotateable against an adjacent ring to allow the neck to be adjusted.

Claim 110 (canceled).

111. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, wherein the spherical split ball assembly is rotateable within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

112. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, wherein each toe portion comprises at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, and further comprising at least one suction tube connectable with the at least one suction port.

113. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 112, wherein the shaft comprises a suction lumen and the suction tube is insertable through the suction lumen.

114. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 113, wherein the suction tube comprises a suction tip which is connectable with the at least one suction port by insertion into a suction tube receptacle.

115. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 103, further comprising an irrigator.

116. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 115, wherein the shaft comprises an irrigation lumen and the irrigator is insertable through the irrigation lumen.

117. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the tissue stabilizer comprising:

 a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, the shaft sized to allow insertion through an endoscopic cannula;

 an adjustable ankle connected with the distal end of the shaft;

 a manipulable foot connected with the ankle, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion by a spherical split ball shell, wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the spherical split ball shell is disposed, and wherein each toe portion comprising at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, the first toe portion and second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula; and

 a tension cable passing through the shaft wherein applying tension to the cable locks the ankle in position.

118. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 117, wherein the ankle comprises an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking elements.

119. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 118, wherein each element is independently rotateable against an adjacent element to allow the neck to be adjusted.

120. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 118, wherein each element has a hollow core through which the tension cable extends.

121. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 120, wherein the elements are arranged so that applying tension to the cable wedges the elements together to lock the ankle in position by friction.

122. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 120, wherein the elements comprise balls and socket rings which are shaped so that applying tension to the cable causes at least one ball to apply a force to at least one socket ring at an angle of at least 60 degrees in relation to the cable.

123. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 117, wherein the spherical split ball shell is rotateable within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

124. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 117, wherein by applying tension to the cable the spherical split ball shell is locked within the housing so that the position of the foot is fixed in relation to the shaft.

125. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 124, wherein the tension cable comprises a locking ball disposed within the housing and wherein applying tension to the cable moves the housing so that the spherical split ball shell is locked within the housing.

126. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 117, further comprising a handle connected with the proximal end of the shaft, wherein rotation of the handle applies tension to the tension cable.

127. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 126, wherein the handle comprises ratchet pawls which lock the cable under tension.

128. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer as in claim 126, wherein the handle comprises a release mechanism which unlocks the cable from tension.

129. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the tissue stabilizer comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, the shaft sized to allow insertion through an endoscopic cannula;

an adjustable ankle connected with the distal end of the shaft;

a manipulable foot connected with the ankle, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, the first toe portion and second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula; and

a tension cable passing through the shaft wherein applying tension to the cable locks the ankle in position; and

a handle connected with the proximal end of the shaft, wherein rotation of the handle applies tension to the tension cable, and wherein the handle comprises ratchet pawls which lock the cable under tension.

130. (previously presented) A tissue stabilizer for endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the tissue stabilizer comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, the shaft sized to allow insertion through an endoscopic cannula;

an adjustable ankle connected with the distal end of the shaft;

a manipulable foot connected with the ankle, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, the first toe portion and second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula; and

a tension cable passing through the shaft wherein applying tension to the cable locks the ankle in position; and

a handle connected with the proximal end of the shaft, wherein rotation of the handle applies tension to the tension cable, and wherein the handle comprises a release button which unlocks the cable from tension.

131. (previously presented) A system for stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the system comprising:

an endoscopic cannula;

a tissue stabilizer comprising

a shaft sized to allow insertion through the endoscopic cannula;

and

a manipulable foot connected with the shaft, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port to apply suction to the target tissue during stabilization, the first toe portion and second toe portion rotateable to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula; and

an irrigator comprising an adjustable dispenser terminating in a spout portion.

132. (previously presented) A system as in claim 131, further comprising an adjustable ankle disposed between the foot and the shaft.

133. (previously presented) A system as in claim 132, wherein the ankle comprises an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking elements.

134. (previously presented) A system as in claim 133, wherein each element is independently rotateable against an adjacent element to allow the neck to be adjusted.

135. (previously presented) A system as in claim 132, wherein the first toe portion is rotateably joined with the second toe portion by a shell, and wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the shell is disposed.

136. (previously presented) A system as in claim 135, wherein the shell is rotateable within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

137. (previously presented) A system as in claim 131, further comprising at least one suction tube connectable with the at least one suction port.

138. (previously presented) A system as in claim 137, wherein the shaft comprises a suction lumen and the suction tube is insertable through the suction lumen.

139. (previously presented) A system as in claim 137, wherein the suction tube comprises a suction tip which is connectable with the at least one suction port by insertion into a suction tube receptacle.

140. (previously presented) A system as in claim 131, wherein the shaft comprises an irrigation lumen and the irrigator is insertable through the irrigation lumen.

141. (previously presented) A system as in claim 131, wherein the dispenser comprises a plurality of beads coupled in a chain-like fashion.

142. (previously presented) A method of endoscopically stabilizing a target tissue within a patient's body, the method comprising:

inserting a tissue stabilizer through an endoscopic cannula wherein the tissue stabilizer comprises

a shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and an irrigation lumen therethrough, and

a manipulable foot connected with the shaft wherein the foot comprises at least two toe portions, each toe portion comprising at least one suction port;

positioning the manipulable foot against the target tissue;

applying suction to the target tissue through the at least one suction port to stabilize the target tissue;

inserting an irrigator having an adjustable dispenser terminating in a spout portion through the irrigation lumen; and

adjusting the dispenser so that the spout portion is directed at the target tissue.

143. (previously presented) The method as in claim 142, wherein the foot comprises a first toe portion rotateably joined with a second toe portion, said method further comprising rotating the first or second toe portions to a first arrangement wherein the foot is insertable through the endoscopic cannula.

144. (previously presented) The method as in claim 142, wherein the tissue stabilizer further comprises an adjustable ankle disposed between the foot and the shaft, said method further comprising the ankle to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

145. (previously presented) The method as in claim 144, wherein the adjustable ankle comprises an adjustable neck comprising a series of interlocking balls and intermediate socket rings, said method further comprising rotating at least one ball against an adjacent ring.

146. (previously presented) The method as in claim 144, wherein the first toe portion is rotateably joined with the second toe portion by a spherical split ball shell and wherein the ankle comprises a housing within which the spherical split ball shell is disposed, said method further comprising rotating the spherical split ball shell within the housing to adjust the position of the foot in relation to the shaft.

147. (previously presented) The method as in claim 142, wherein the shaft has a suction lumen therethrough, said method further comprising inserting a suction tube through the suction lumen.

148. (previously presented) The method as in claim 147, wherein the suction tube has a suction tip, said method further comprising connecting the suction tip with the at least one suction port.

149. (previously presented) The method as in claim 142, further comprising supplying a fluid to the irrigator so that the fluid exits the spout portion.

Claims 150-154 (canceled).